

STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 82

18p



IT BEGAN AS A DUEL AND ENDED
IN GALACTIC CONFLICT

SPACE SHOOT-OUT



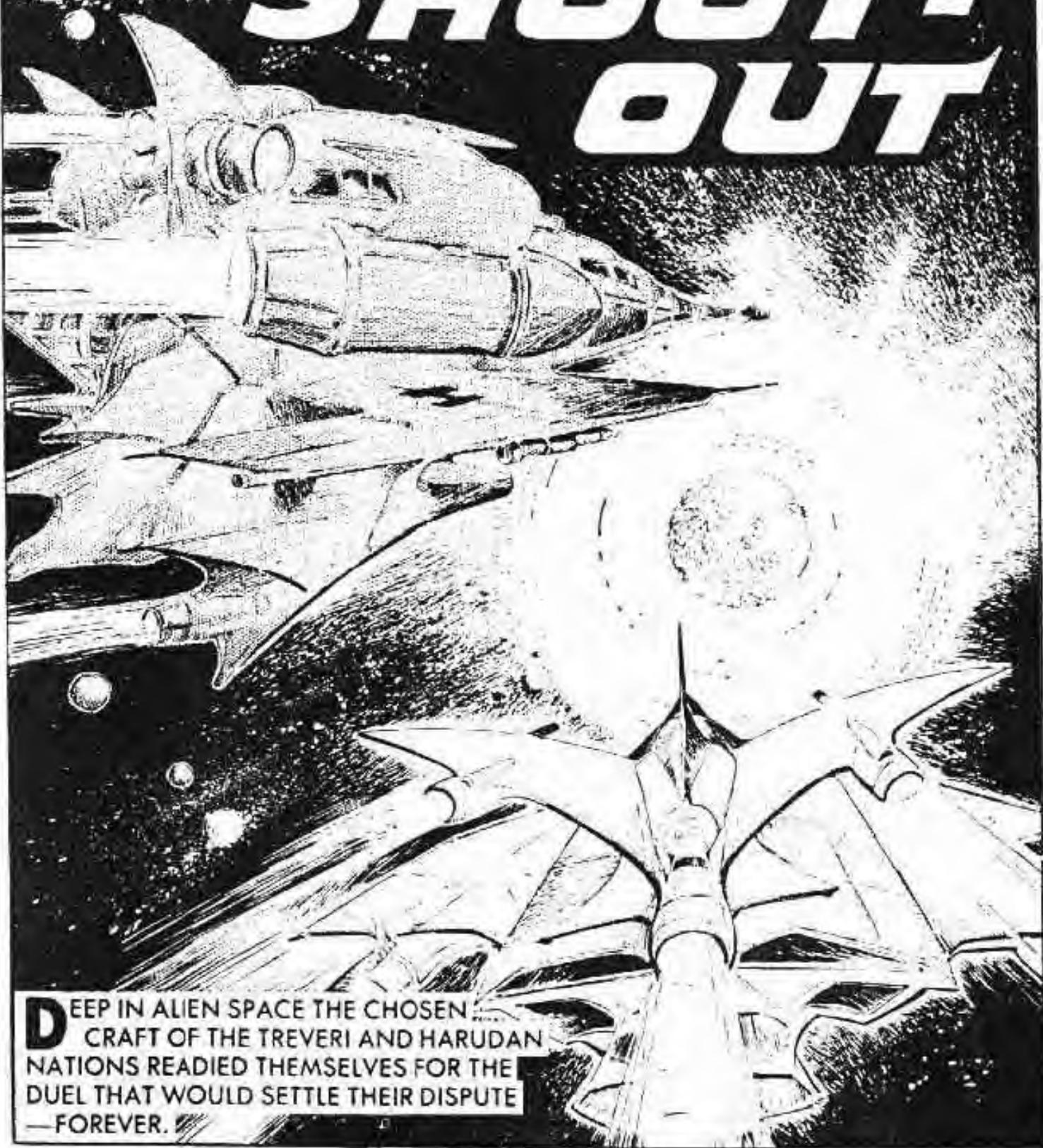
STARBLAZER



FAR OFF IN A
DISTANT GALAXY,
TWO WARRING POWERS,
DEADLOCKED FOR MANY YEARS,
DEvised A MEANS OF RESOLVING THEIR
LONG CONFLICT. THEY ARRANGED FOR A DUEL
TO BE FOUGHT—ONE SHIP FROM EACH SIDE—WHICH
WOULD DECIDE THE OUTCOME OF THE LONG, LONG WAR.

EARTH, A PEACEFUL WORLD MANY LIGHT YEARS AWAY,
WAS UNAWARE THAT FATE HAD DECREED IT WAS TO BE
INNOCENTLY INVOLVED AND THAT IT WAS TO BE THE LOSER!

SPACE SHOOT- OUT



DEEP IN ALIEN SPACE THE CHOSEN CRAFT OF THE TREVERI AND HARUDAN NATIONS READIED THEMSELVES FOR THE DUEL THAT WOULD SETTLE THEIR DISPUTE —FOREVER.

THE OPPOSING GENERALS SAT IN SILENCE IN THE CONTROL CENTRE RUN BY NEUTRAL OBSERVERS.



GENTLEMEN. PROCEED.



ABOARD THE TREVIAN SHIP —

ATTENTION! THIS IS A SIMULTANEOUS
TRANSMISSION TO BOTH SHIPS. YOU MAY
LEAVE THE NON-COMBAT ZONE. DO NOT
COMMENCE BATTLE UNTIL CLEARED BY
BATTLE COMPUTERS.

ONCE CLEAR OF THE PLANET, THE
SHIPS RECEIVED PERMISSION TO
OPEN FIRE . . .



WE ARE CLOSING IN ON
THE HARUDAN VESSEL.

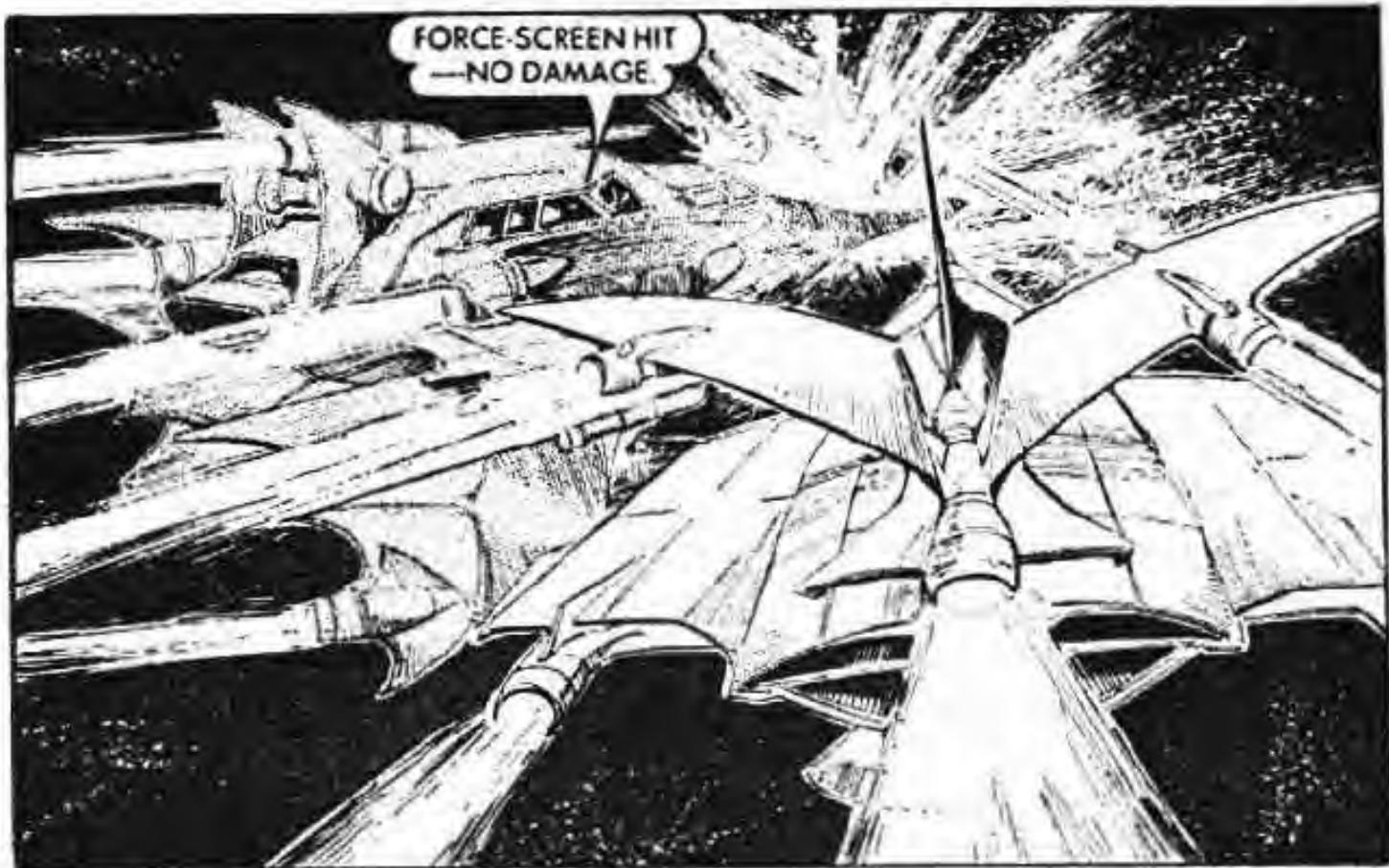
THE COMPUTERS ARE
ANALYSING THE
HARUDAN BATTLESHIP'S
PROFILE, LOOKING FOR
WEAK POINTS.

WHILE THEY DO THE SAME TO US.
FIRST TO HIT THE VULNERABLE SPOT,
WINS. THIS IS MADNESS! WHY DID
OUR LEADERS AGREE TO THIS . . . THE
HARUDANS ARE THE AGGRESSORS. IF
THEY WIN THEY WILL WIPE OUT ALL
OUR PEOPLE.

AS THE SHIPS CLOSED, THEY TESTED ONE ANOTHER'S DEFENCES WITH LONG RANGE MISSILES.



FORCE-SCREEN HIT
—NO DAMAGE.



THE DUEL RAGED WITHOUT REST OVER VAST DISTANCES — CARRYING THE GLADIATORS INTO THE VICINITY OF A BLACK HOLE.

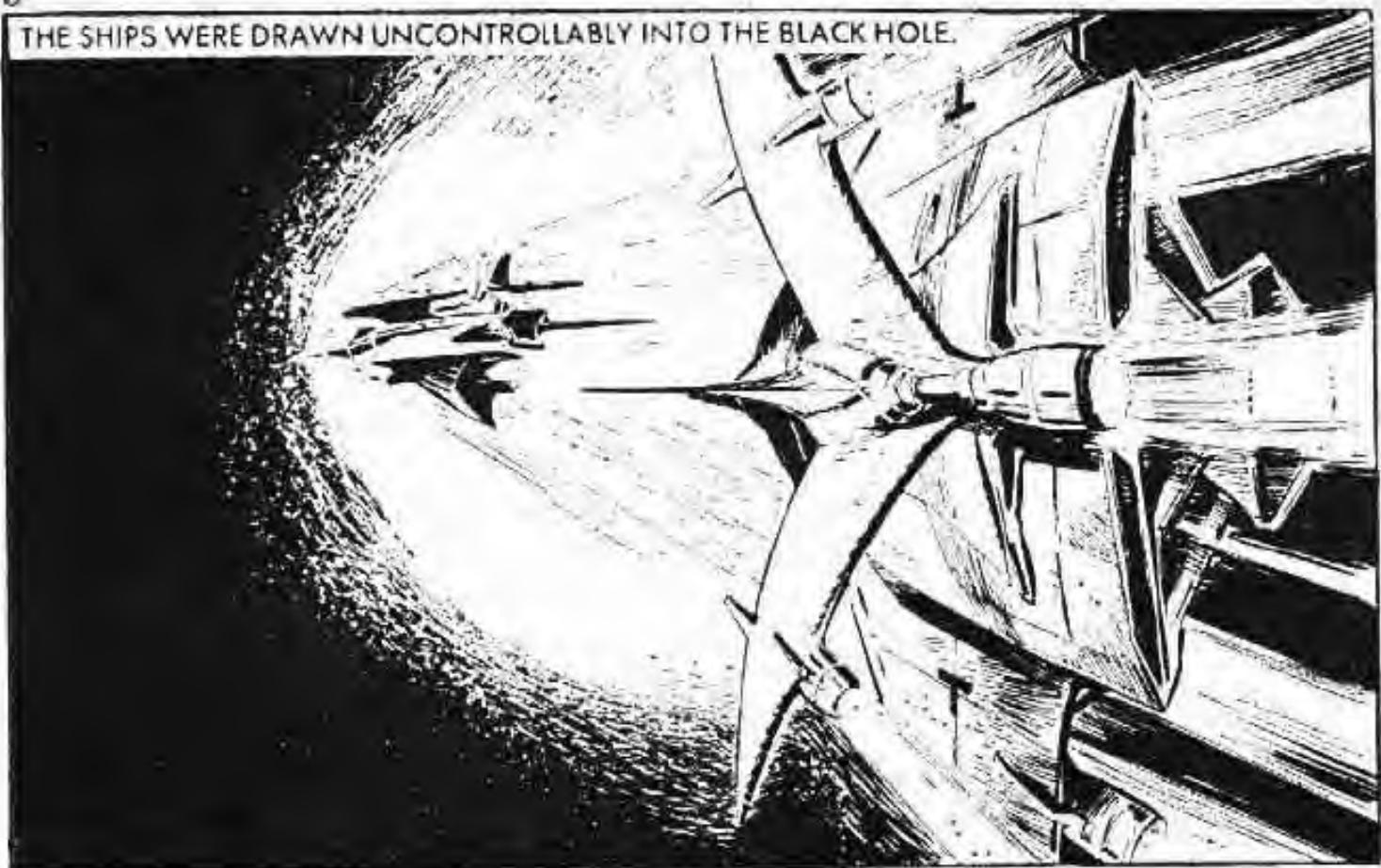


WE'RE FLYING TOWARDS A
BLACK HOLE! WHY HAVEN'T THE
COMPUTERS DIVERTED US
AROUND IT?

BECAUSE OUR COMPUTERS ARE
PROGRAMMED TO DESTROY, NOT NAVIGATE.



THE SHIPS WERE DRAWN UNCONTROLLABLY INTO THE BLACK HOLE.

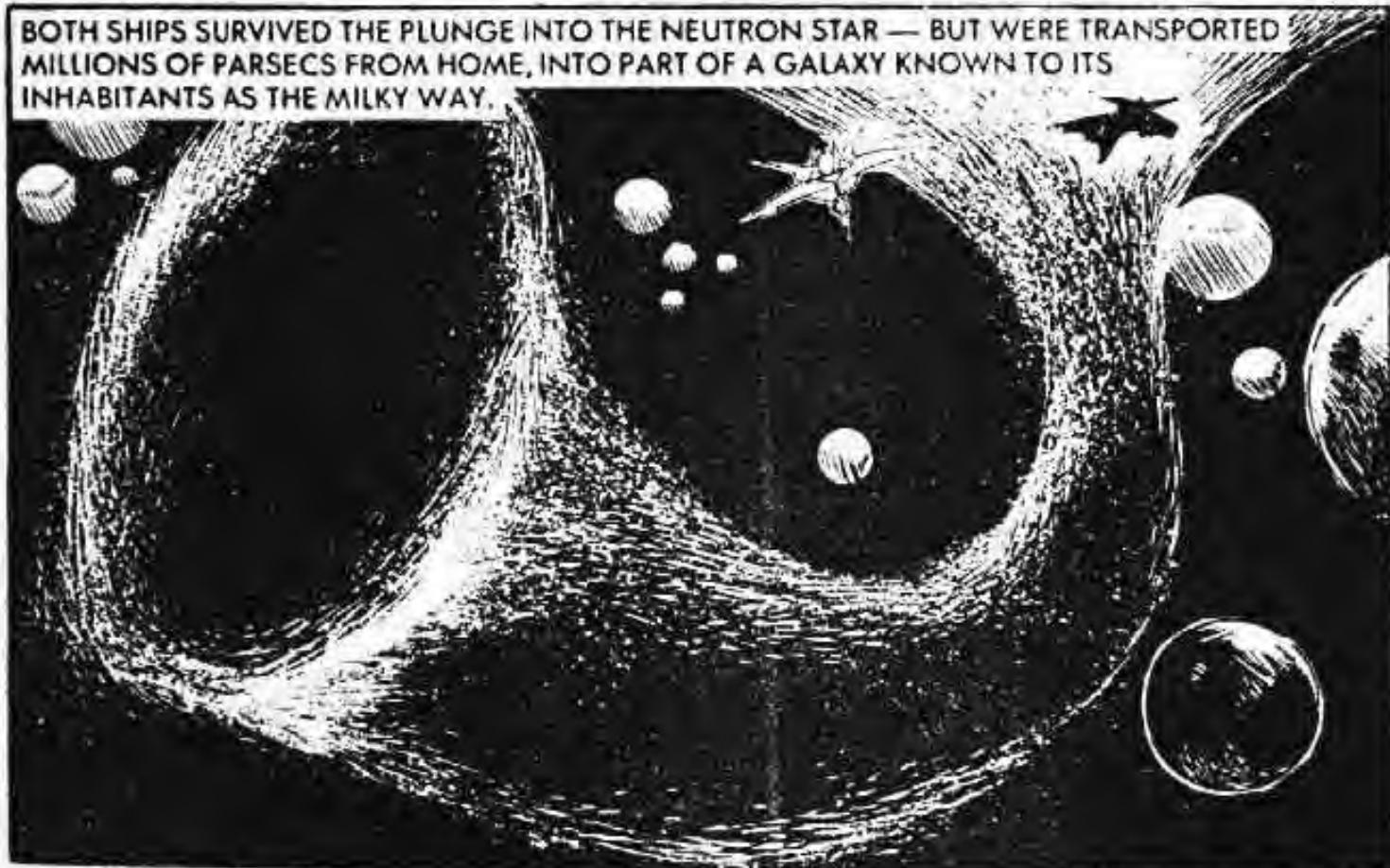


WE'RE OUT OF CONTROL—DIVING STRAIGHT INTO IT! CRASH POSITIONS. QUICKLY.

THE ENORMOUS FORCES OF THE
BLACK HOLE CAUSED /
UNCONSCIOUSNESS.



BOTH SHIPS SURVIVED THE PLUNGE INTO THE NEUTRON STAR — BUT WERE TRANSPORTED
MILLIONS OF PARSECS FROM HOME, INTO PART OF A GALAXY KNOWN TO ITS
INHABITANTS AS THE MILKY WAY.

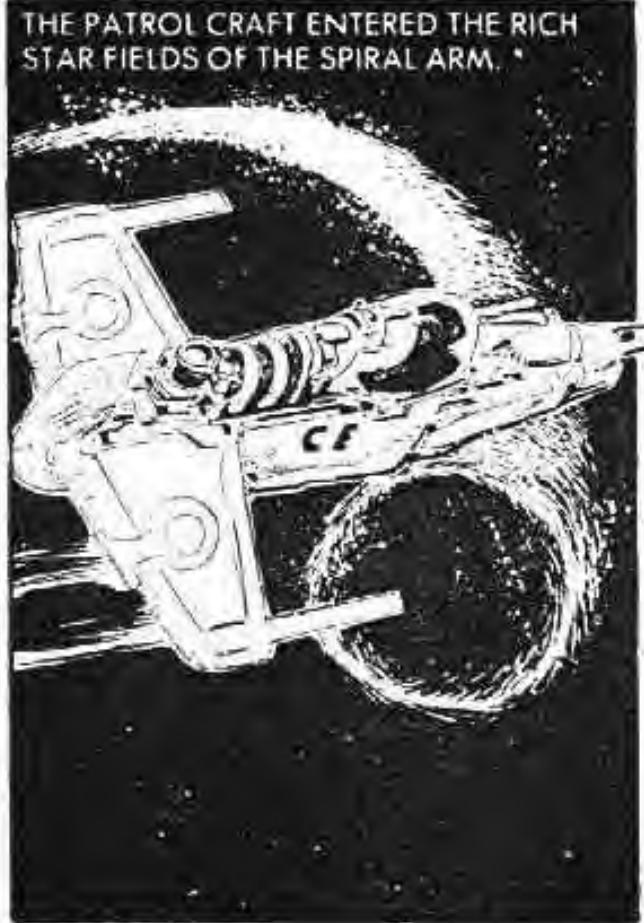




NEARBY, ON ROUTINE PATROL, AN EARTH CRAFT PICKED UP AN EMERGENCY —



THE PATROL CRAFT ENTERED THE RICH STAR FIELDS OF THE SPIRAL ARM.



AUTOMATIC DETECTION SYSTEM SHOWS HEAVY METEOR SHOWER AT EXTREME RANGE: LARGE SPREAD, MOVING VERY FAST.



THE ONRUSHING METEOR STORM GAVE THE SPACERS LITTLE TIME TO PREPARE THEIR DEFENCE.



WITH TURNER OPERATING THE ENERGY CANNON, THE EARTH SHIP COURSED AGAINST THE METEOR TIDE.



CAPTAIN JOHN MARSHALL AND GUNNER DANIEL TURNER MADE UP THE TWO-MAN CREW OF THE PATROL FORCE.

YOU'LL NEVER SHIFT THAT ROCK WITH THE CANNON, DAN. I'LL CUT IN THE ENERGY CONVERTER.



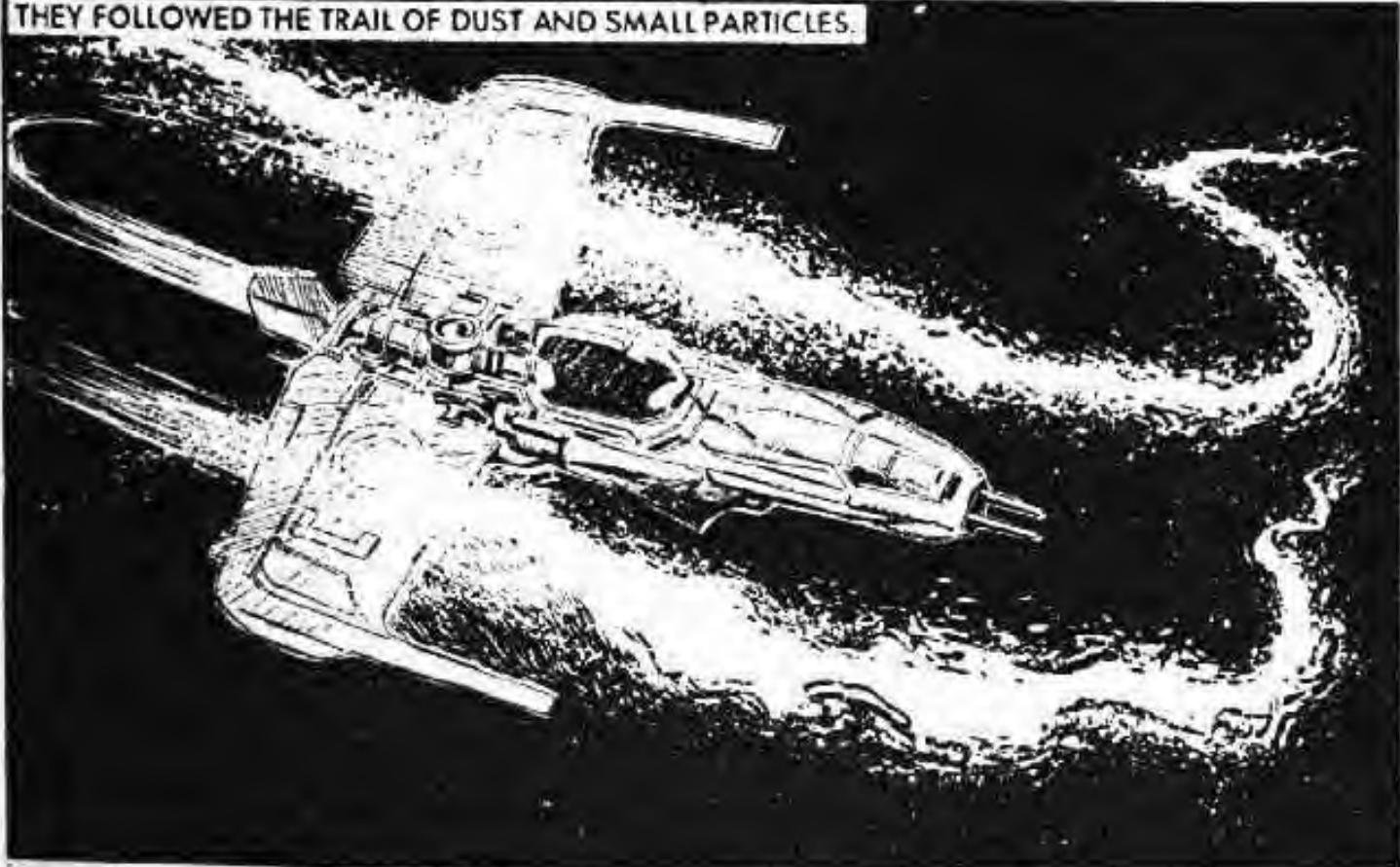
AN ENERGY CONVERSION FIELD SURROUNDED THE SHIP, SO THAT WHEN THE METEOR STRUCK IT, THE FORCE OF THE IMPACT WAS CONVERTED INTO USABLE ENERGY FOR THE SHIP'S DEFENCE SHIELD . . .



FIRST HIT, JOHN . . . BUT WE'VE JUST
ABOUT MADE IT.



THEY FOLLOWED THE TRAIL OF DUST AND SMALL PARTICLES.





THE GREAT SHIP VENTED WASTE MATERIAL.



THAT'S WHERE OUR METEOR STORM CAME FROM — SPEWED OUT OF THAT SHIP. JUDGING BY THE AMOUNT OF MATERIAL IT'S TAKING IN, THAT'S WHERE THE MISSING PLANETS WENT.





THE ALIEN CRAFT OPENED FIRE —







THE TREVERAN SHIP CONTINUED ON ITS DESTRUCTIVE COURSE.







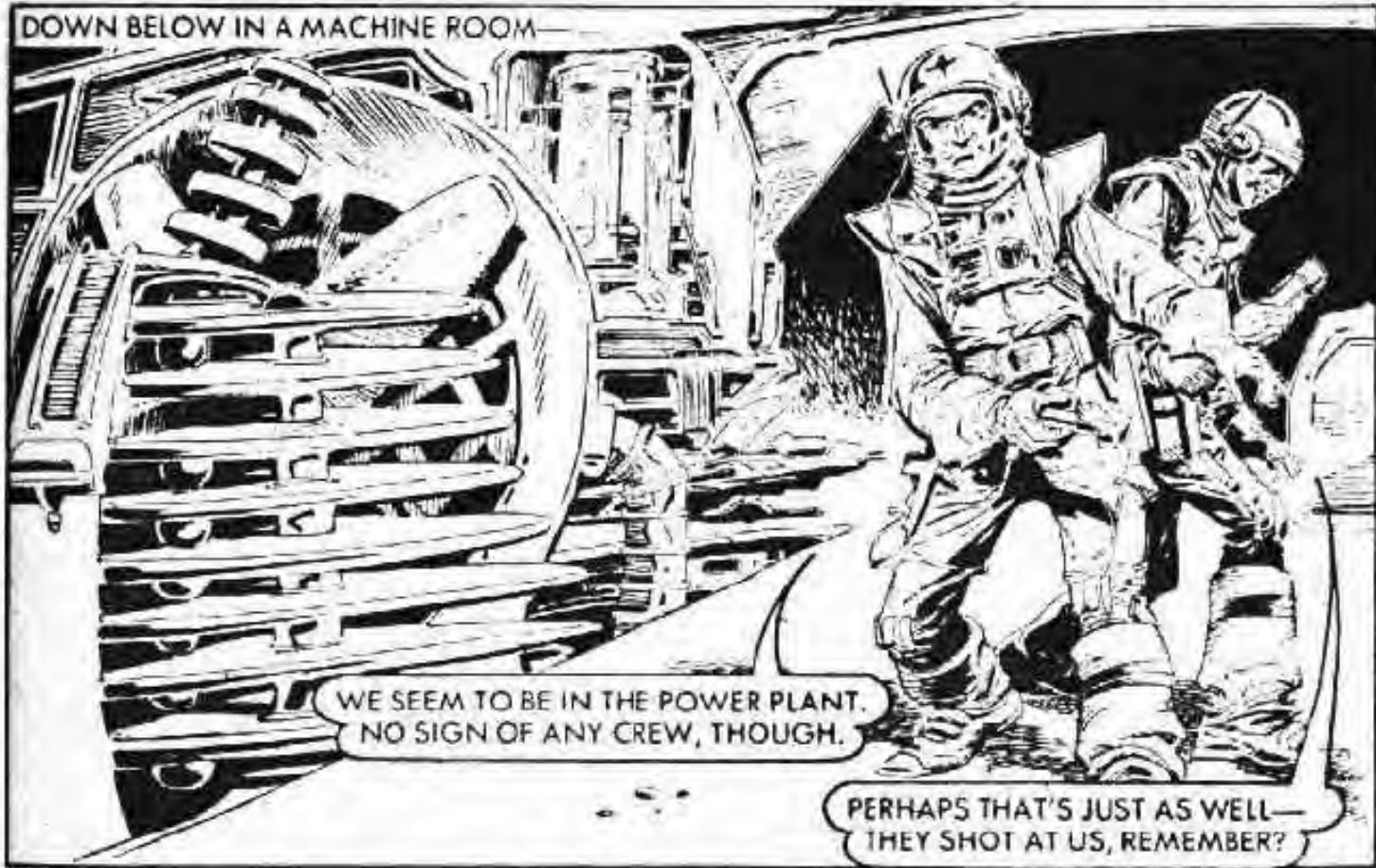
ON THE COMMAND DECK, MARSHALL AND TURNER WERE STILL UNDETECTED.



NO, NOT EVEN THE HARUDAN VESSEL. BUT IT'S DEFINITELY IN THIS GALAXY. ITS EXIT FROM THE BLACK HOLE WAS CONFIRMED BY OUR SCANNERS. IT WAS THROWN OUT IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION.



DOWN BELOW IN A MACHINE ROOM—





THE REMOTES—FLYING ROBOT DEFENDERS
—DESCENDED ON THE UNWARY SPACERS.





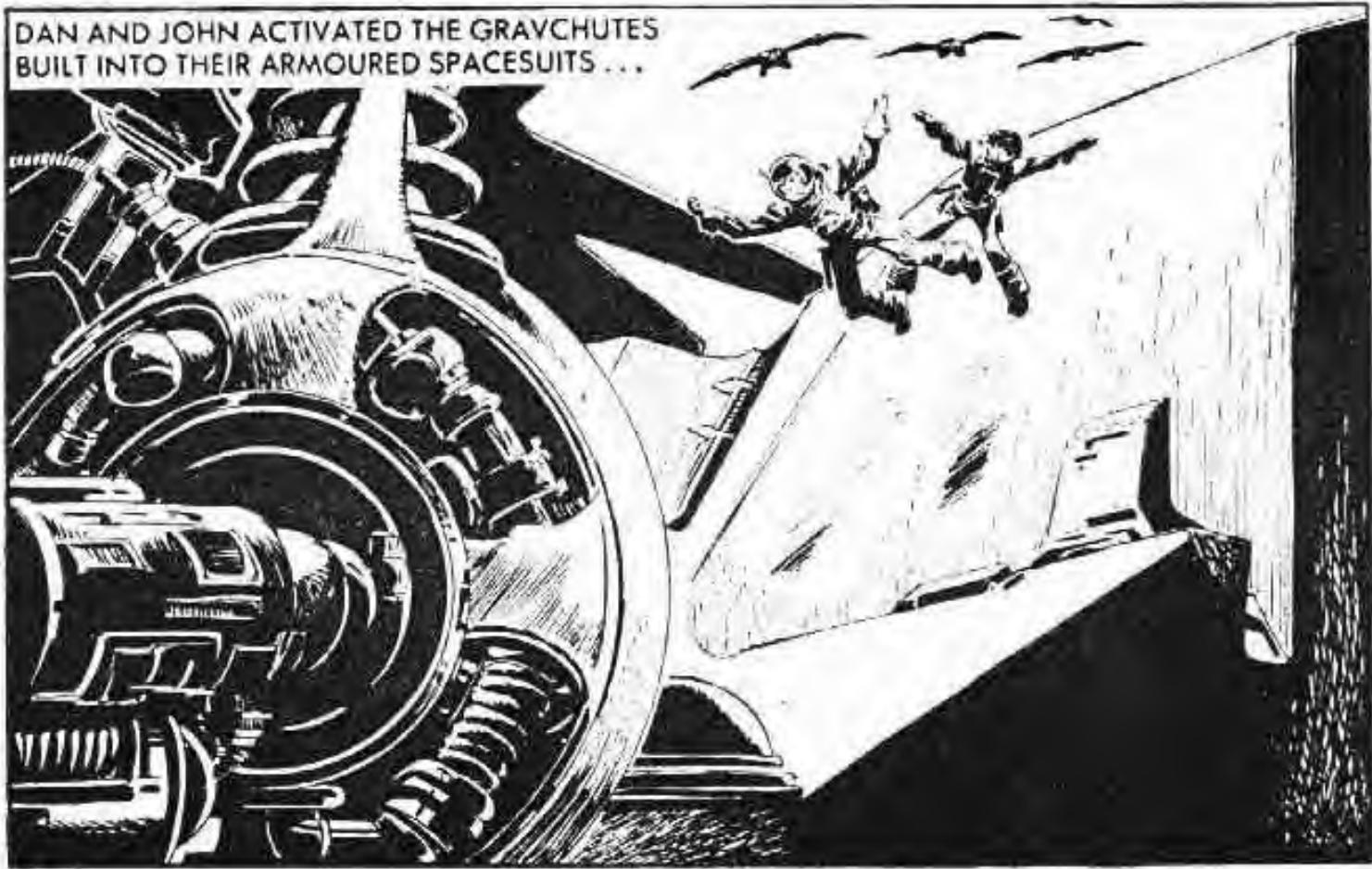
THE SPACERS INSTANTLY RETURNED FIRE.



TOO MANY OF THEM, DAN.
JUMP—USE YOUR GRAVCHUTE.

THE GRAVCHUTES WERE DESIGNED TO
COMPENSATE FOR LIGHTER OR DENSER
GRAVITIES. BY USING THE CONTROL SWITCH,
THEY COULD ANCHOR THEMSELVES TO THE SPOT, OR FLOAT.

DAN AND JOHN ACTIVATED THE GRAVCHUTES
BUILT INTO THEIR ARMOURED SPACESUITS ...







MANY REMOTES GATHERED TO ATTACK.



FIRE!



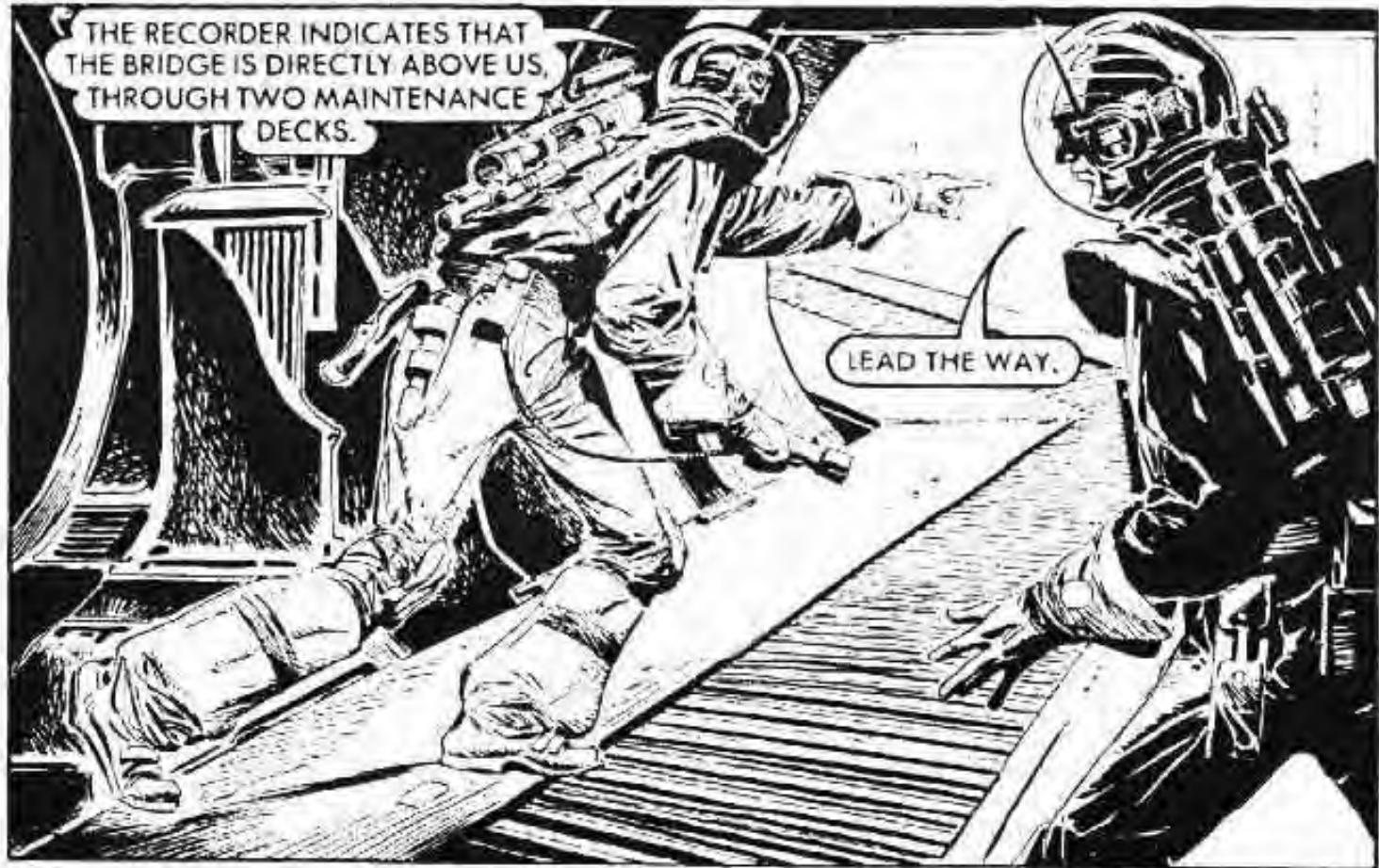


TURNER CONNECTED A SCHEMATIC RECORDER TO THE NEAREST BULKHEAD.



THE INSTRUMENT USING CONTROLLED IMPULSES BUILT UP A 3-D PICTURE OF ANY STRUCTURE.











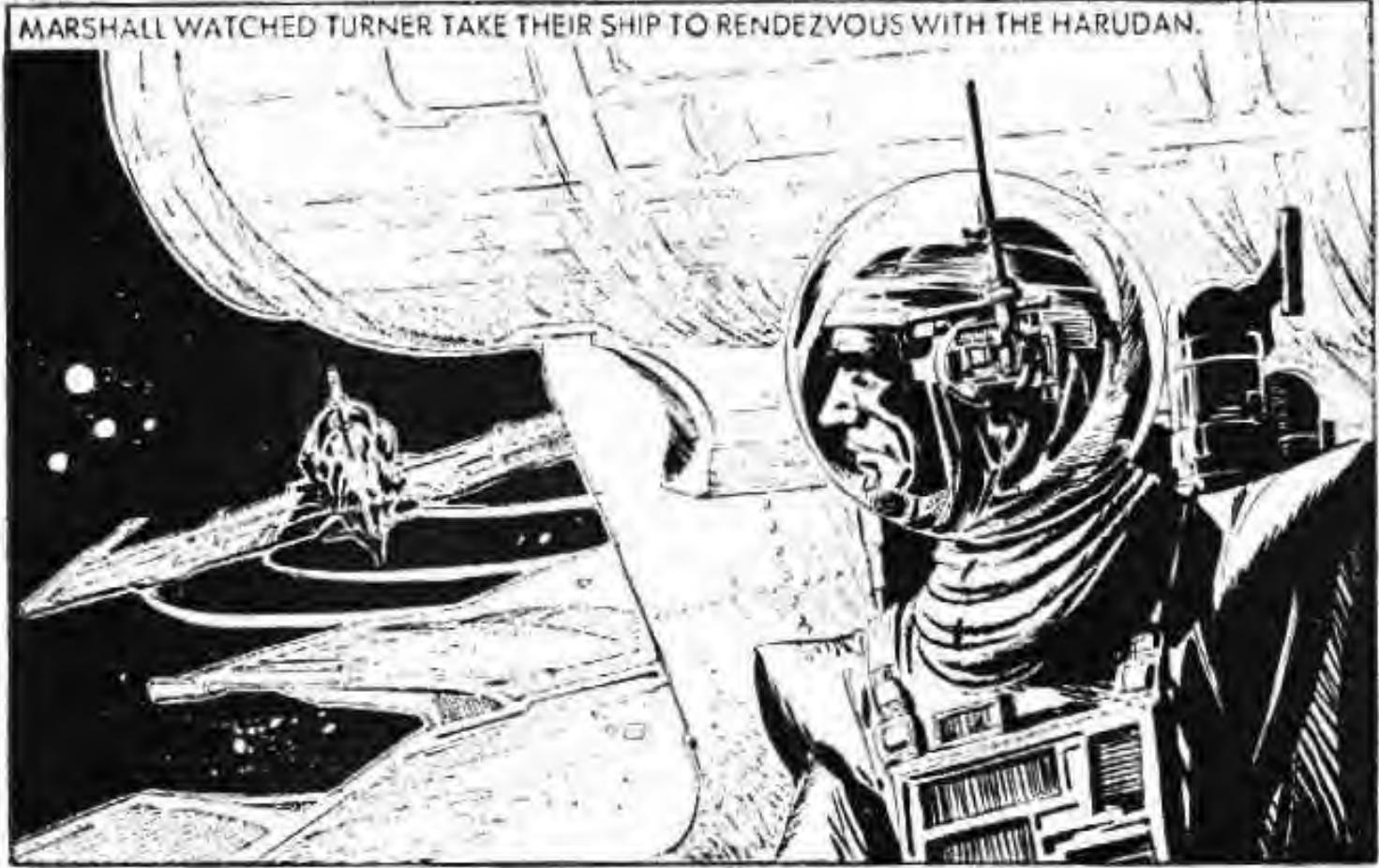








MARSHALL WATCHED TURNER TAKE THEIR SHIP TO RENDEZVOUS WITH THE HARUDAN.

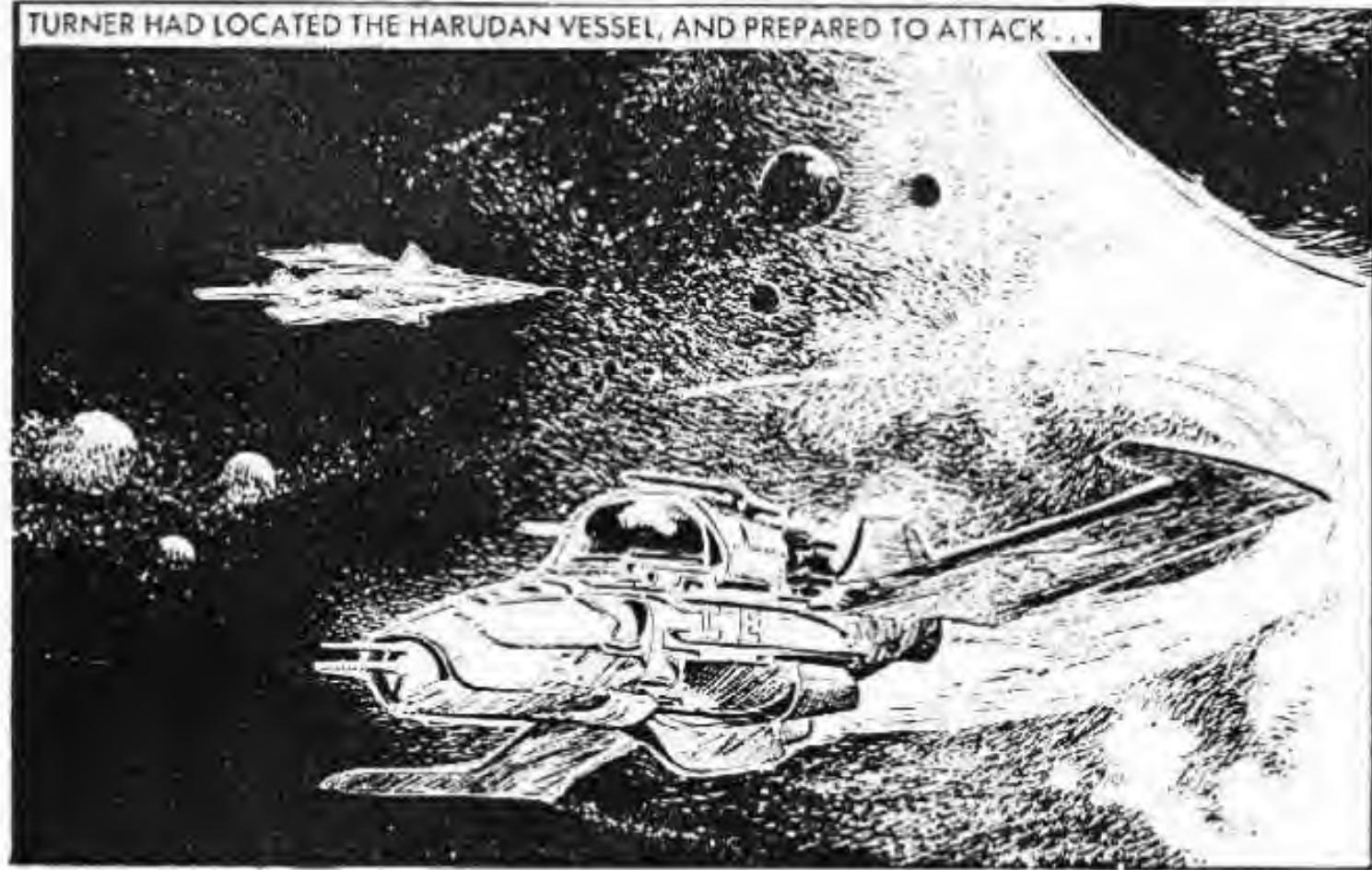


AS INSTRUCTED BY RODAN, THE SPACER MADE HIS WAY TO THE FORWARD TRANSMITTER BEACON...





TURNER HAD LOCATED THE HARUDAN VESSEL, AND PREPARED TO ATTACK . . .

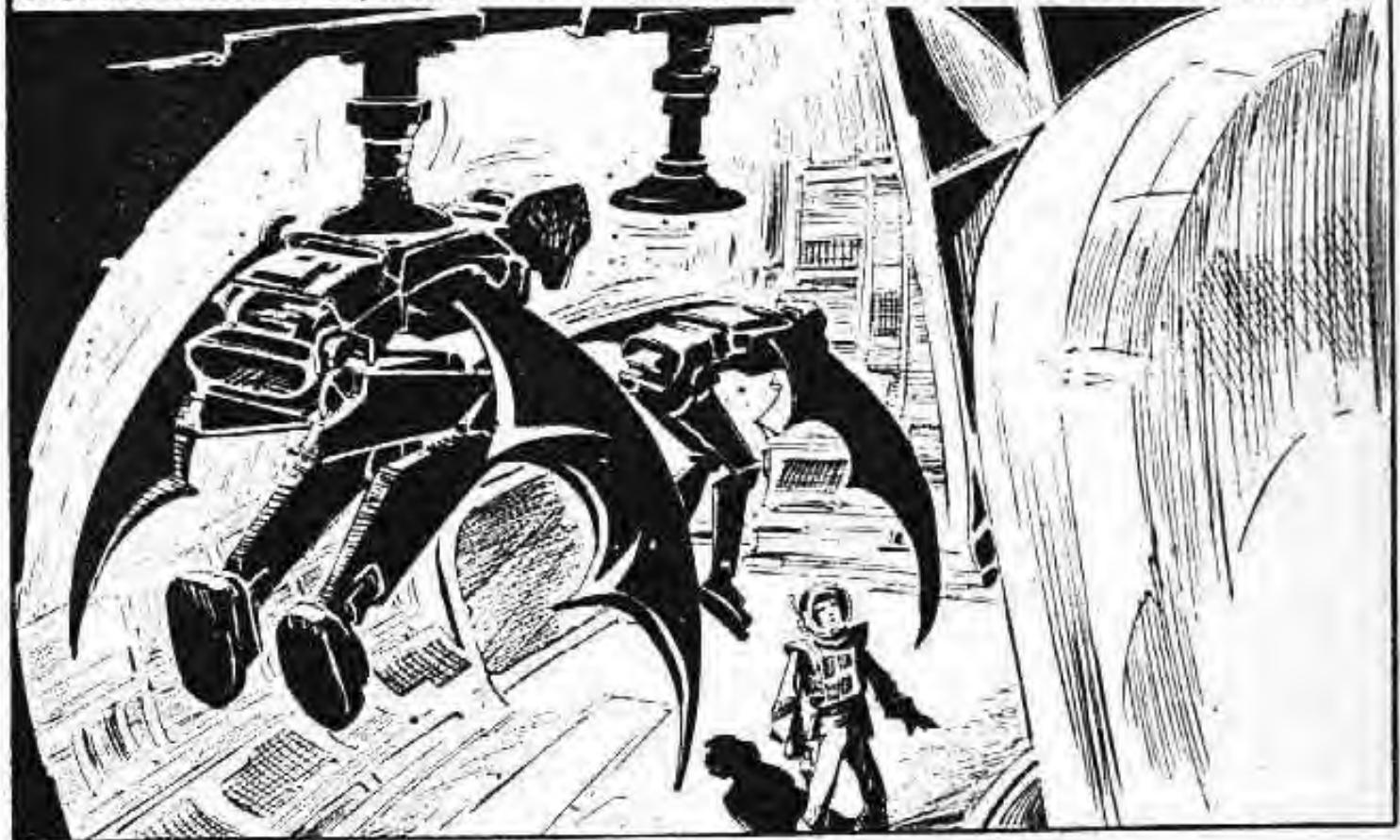


. . . BUT WAS ATTACKED FIRST.





THE MASTER COMPUTER, A GIANT MUTANT BRAIN, DEFENDED ITSELF WITH A PAIR OF REMOTES.



MARSHALL ESTABLISHED COMMUNICATION WITH THE MASTER COMPUTER.



A BOLT OF DEADLY LASER ENERGY SHOT OUT —

I AM PROGRAMMED TO SEEK AND DESTROY. THERE IS NO NEED FOR MANUAL CONTROL.

YOU ARE IN EARTHSPACE ALONG WITH A HARUDAN VESSEL NOW FAST APPROACHING US. YOU HAVE NOT COMPLETED REPAIRS SO YOU STAND NO CHANCE... UNLESS YOU TURN OVER TO ME.



OUR ONLY CHANCE IS IF I PILOT THIS CRAFT, BECAUSE I HAVE AN IDEA WHICH MIGHT JUST WORK.



YOUR REASONING IS LOGICAL.
THE BRIDGE SYSTEMS ARE NOW ACTIVE.



ON BOARD TURNER'S SHIP —
THE HARUDAN SHIP IS ACCELERATING
TOWARDS MARSHALL. CAN'T LET IT GET A SHOT
AT HIM UNTIL HE'S PREPARED.

TURNER LAUNCHED A TINY SENSOR AT THE HARUDAN WARSHIP ...

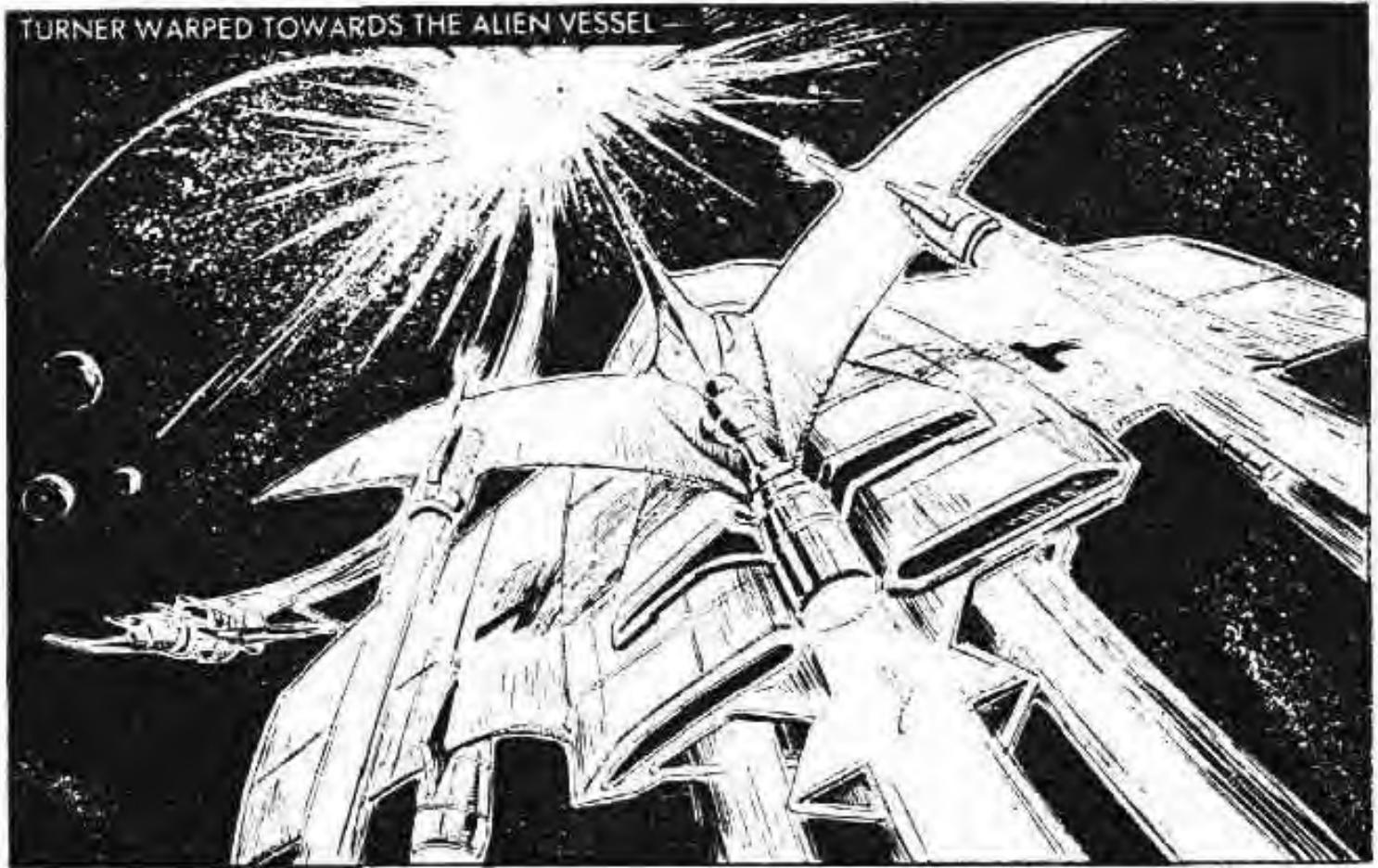


... WHICH ATTACHED ITSELF TO THE UNDERSIDE OF THE VESSEL.



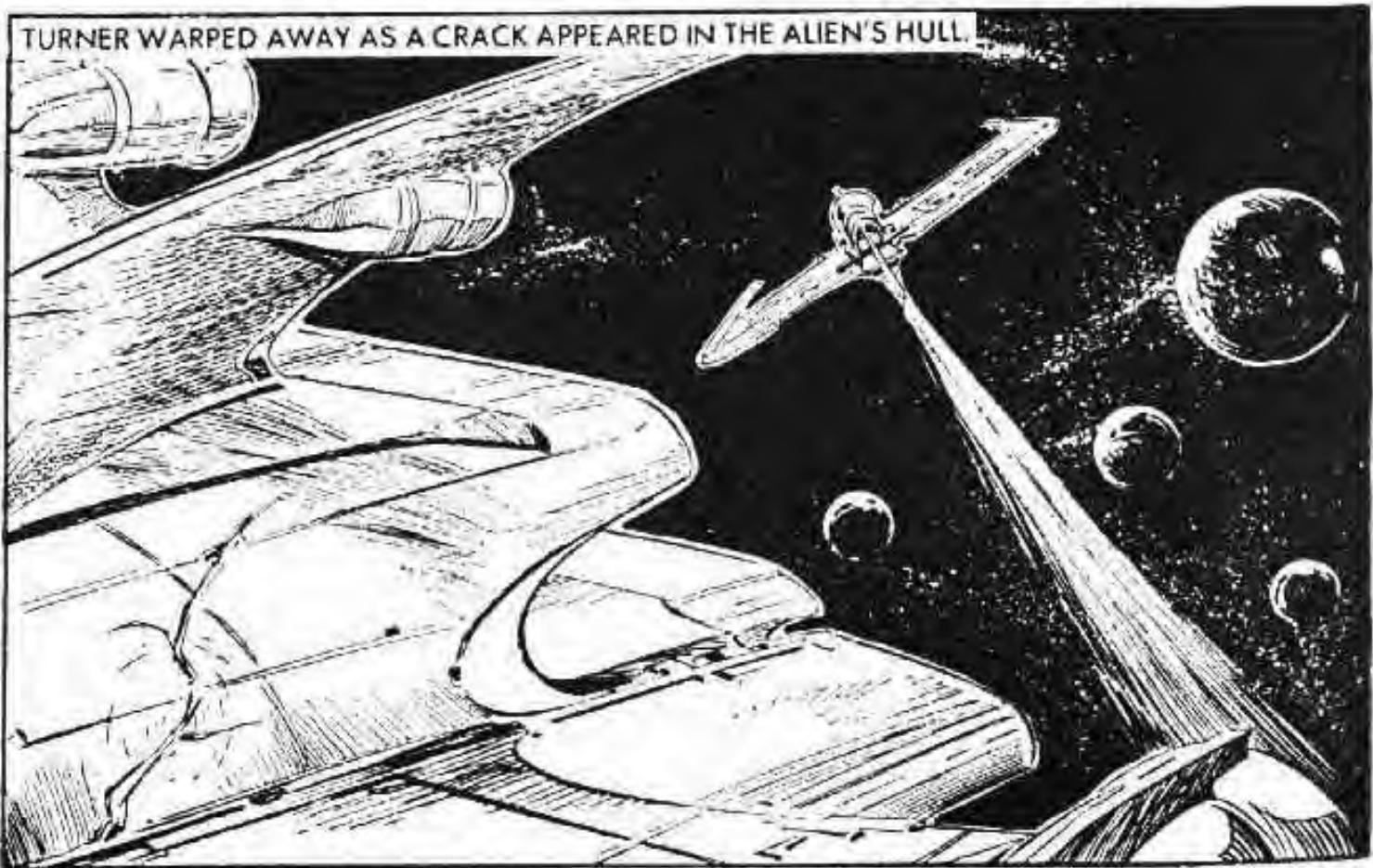
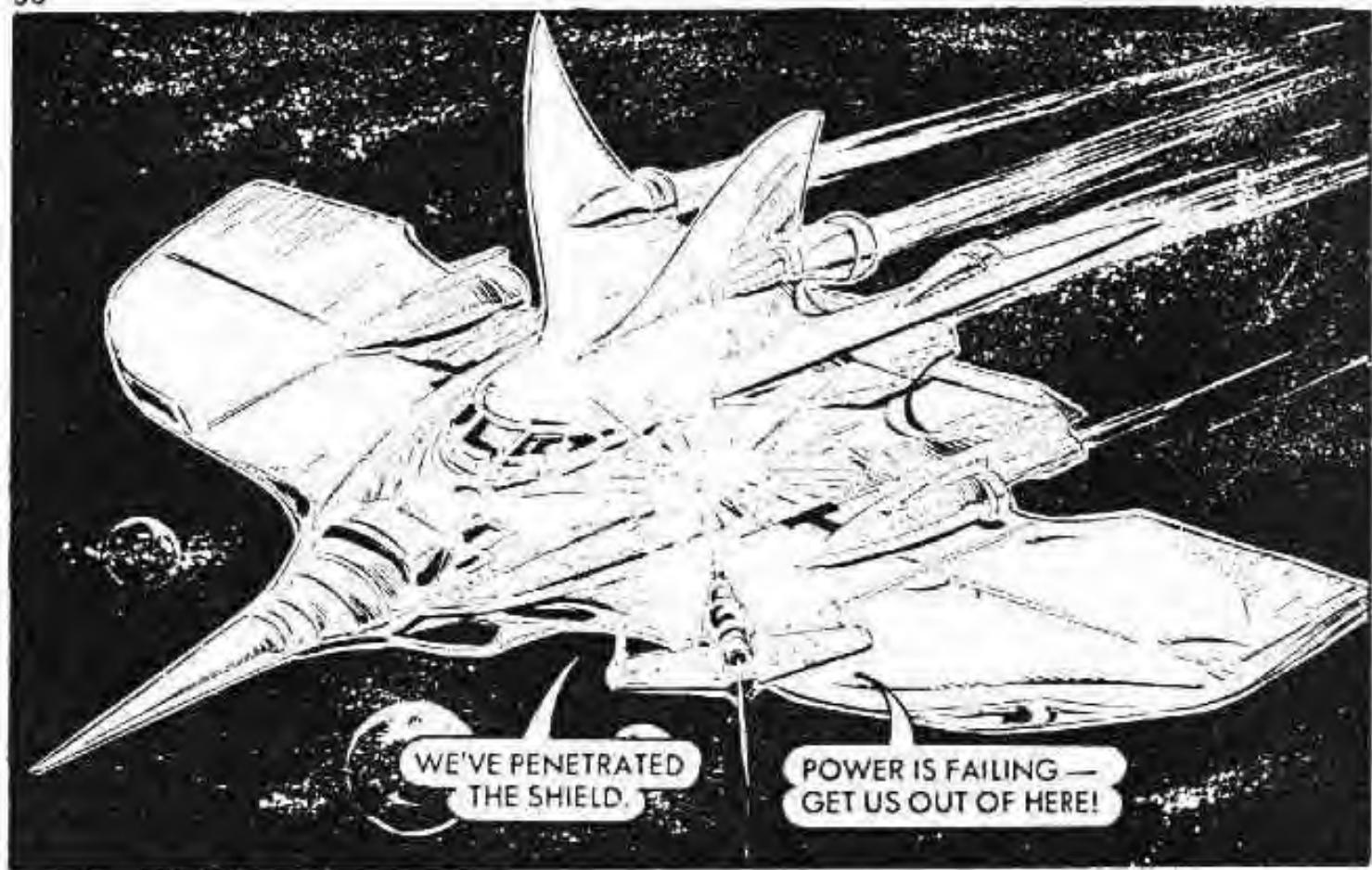


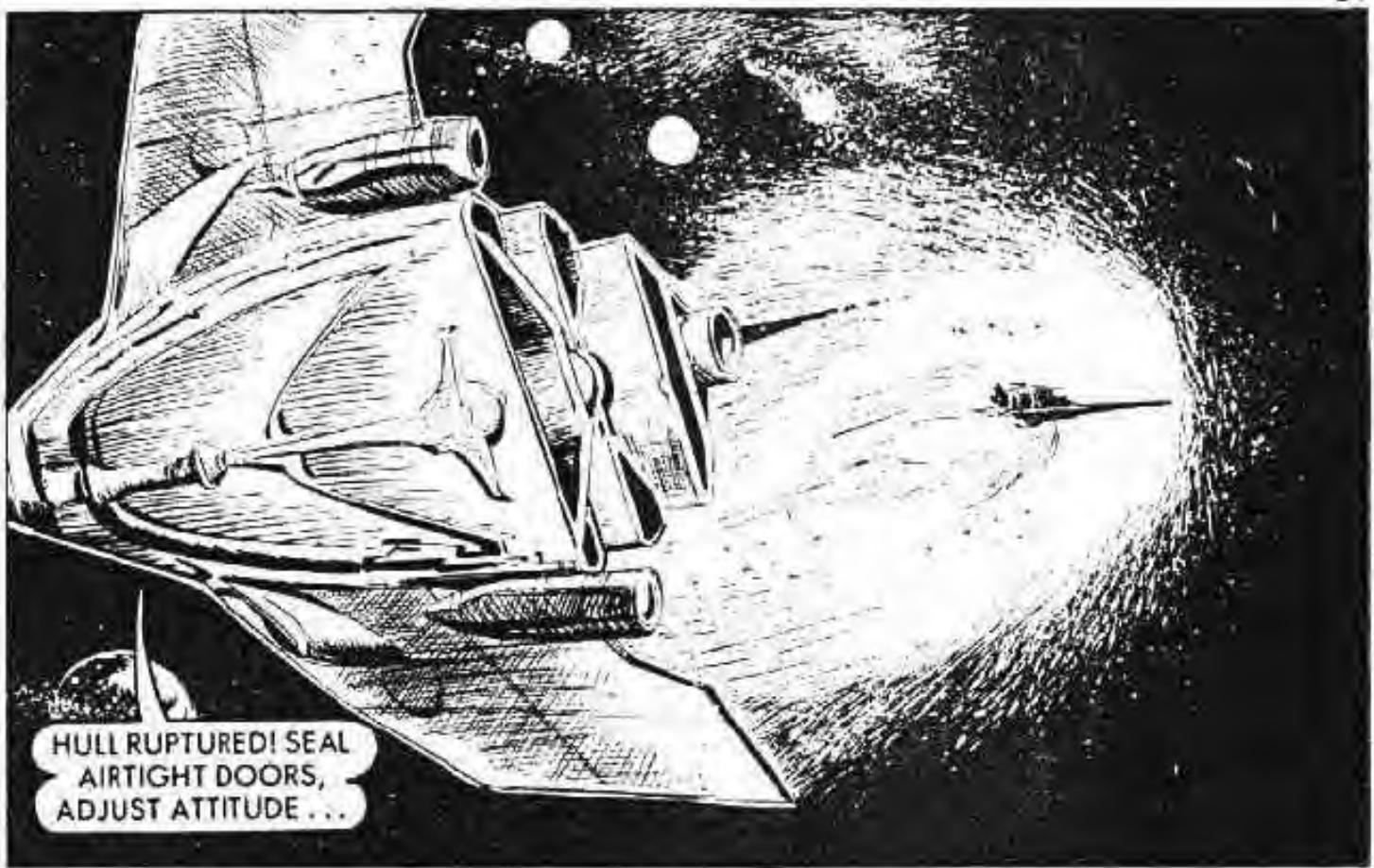
TURNER warped towards the alien vessel.



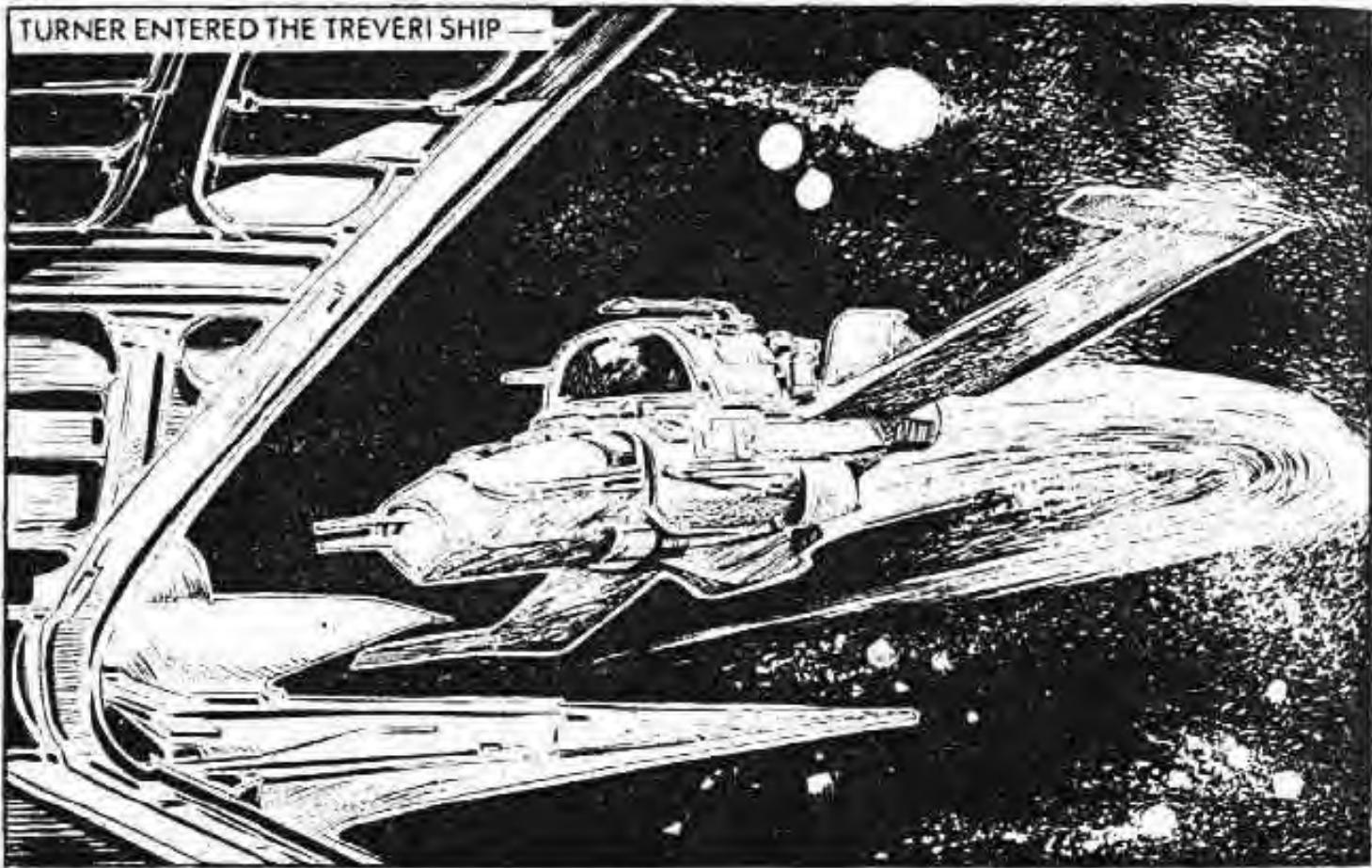
THE SHIELD
IS TOO POWERFUL.

I'M GOING TO SHUT OFF ALL BUT THE
CANNON SYSTEMS IN THREE SECONDS . . .
TRANSFER ALL POWER TO THE CANNON.



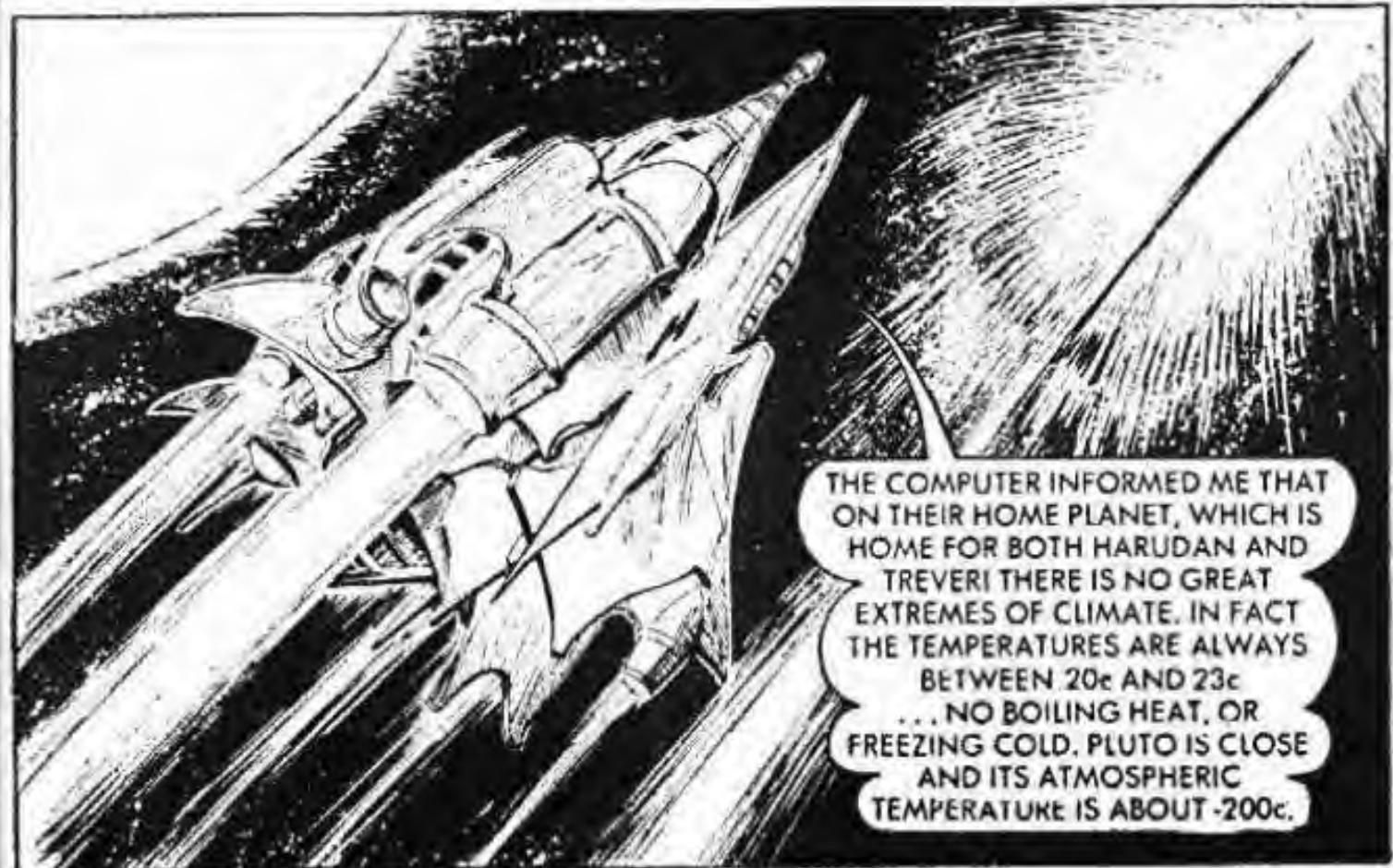


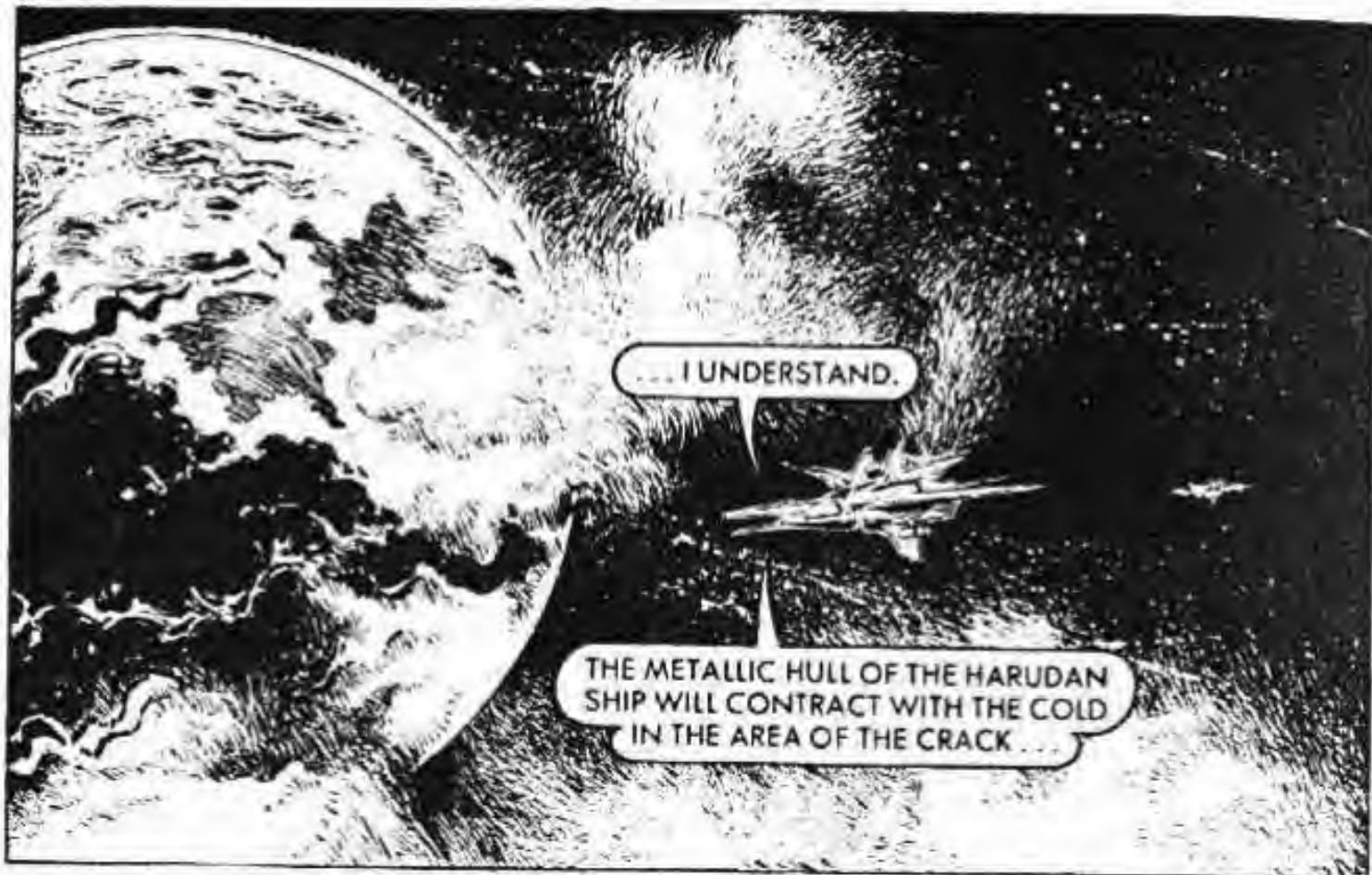
TURNER ENTERED THE TREVERI SHIP —



— AND RACED TO THE BRIDGE.





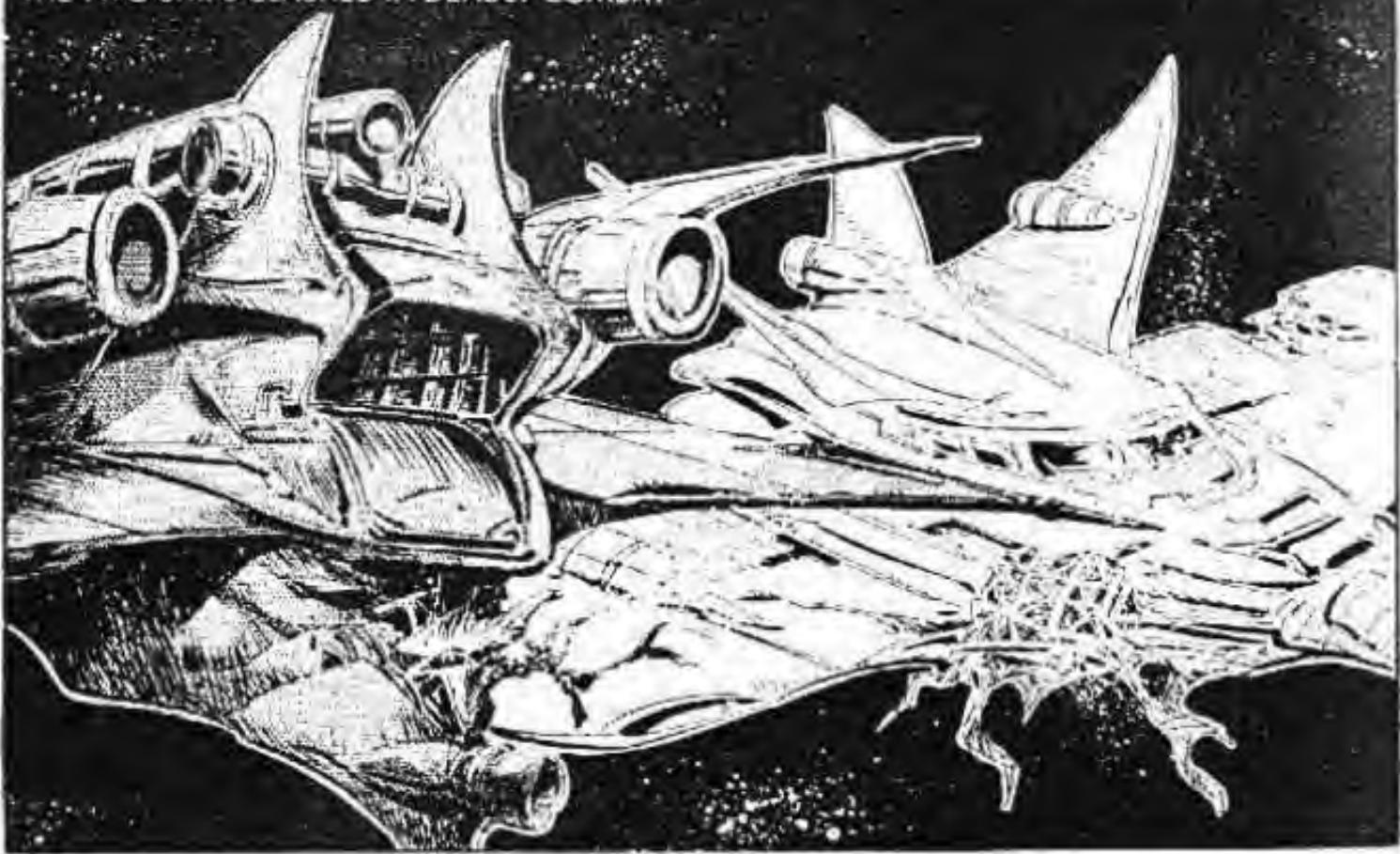




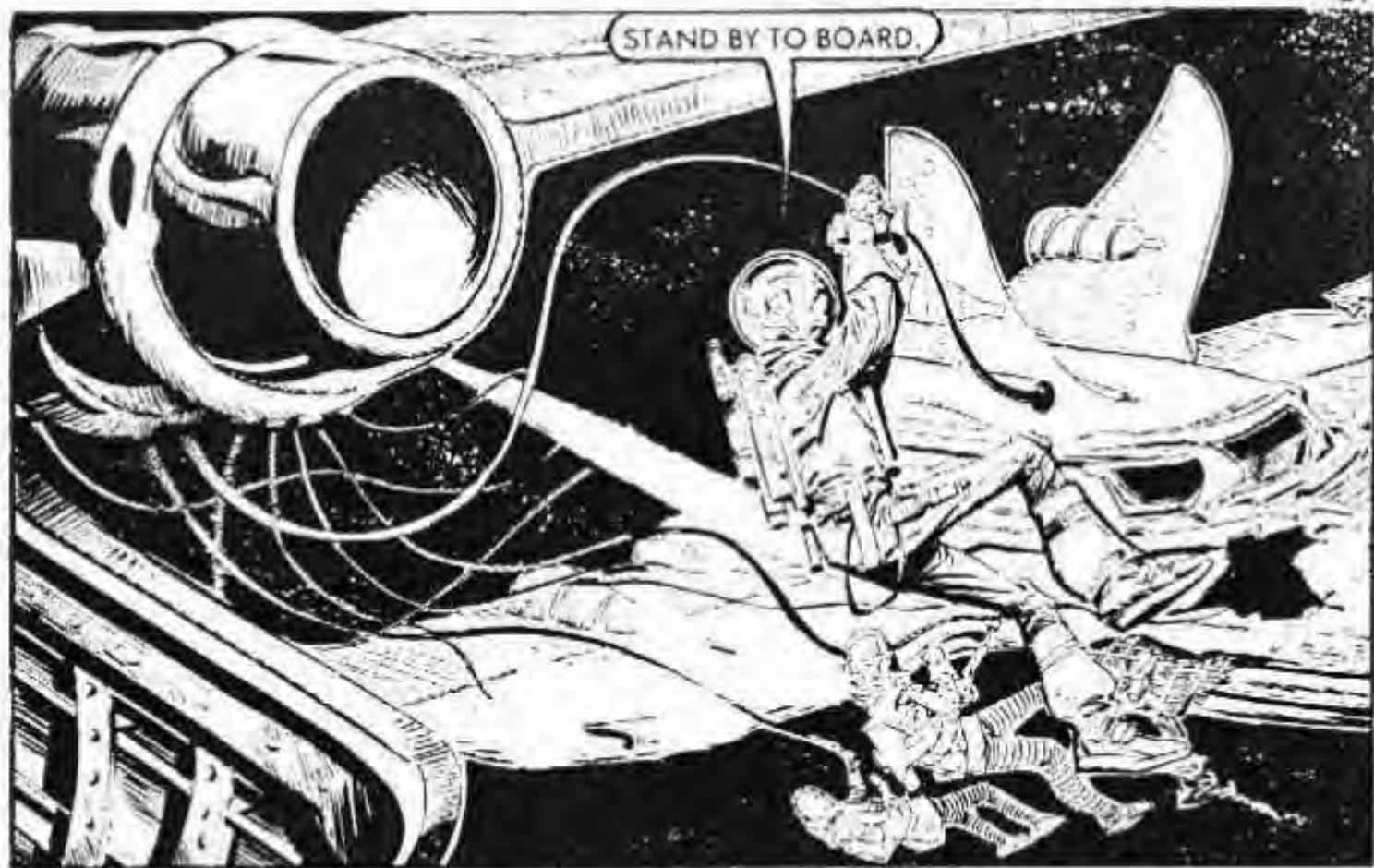




THE TWO SHIPS CLASHED IN DEADLY COMBAT—



SEVERE DAMAGE WAS DONE TO BOTH CRAFT—



THE FIGHTING WAS VERY FIERCE.

I'M HIT, BARDOC!



GO! I SHALL STAY HERE AND
HOLD THESE BRUTES AT BAY. I SHALL
SELL MY LIFE VERY DEARLY.





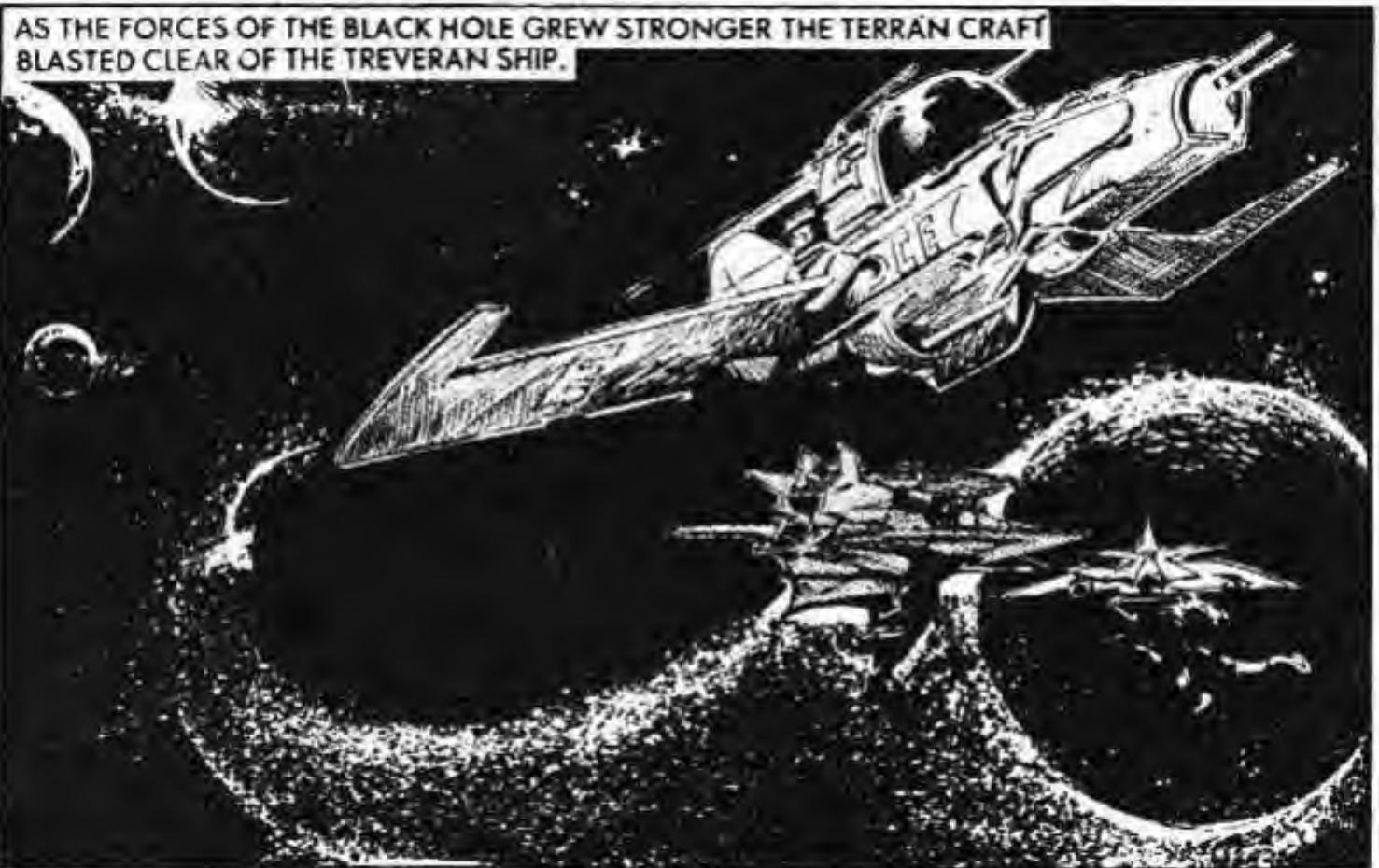


WITH THE CRIPPLED HARUDAN SHIP IN TOW, BARDOC
HEADED FOR THE BLACK HOLE.

DAN, WE'D
BETTER LEAVE.



WE'LL HAVE TO LEAVE
YOU, BARDUC. GOODBYE.



AS THE FORCES OF THE BLACK HOLE GREW STRONGER THE TERRAN CRAFT
BLASTED CLEAR OF THE TREVERAN SHIP.



THE HARUDAN CRAFT EXPLODED AS THE POWER PLANT WENT CRITICAL.





THE SOLAR SYSTEM RETURNED TO STABILITY AS MARSHALL AND TURNER TURNED THEIR CRAFT TOWARDS THE NEXT TROUBLE SPOT.

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SCORPIO 8TH SIGN OF THE ZODIAC

The constellation of Scorpius is the Southern Hemisphere's most impressive. It contains one of the brightest stars in the sky—the red star Antares (Alpha Scorpii). The entire constellation is crossed by the Milky Way.

SHAULA

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